

Message Text

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R 162155Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

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FOL TEL SENT ACTION STATE, INFO ABIDJAN, ACCRA, BANGUI, BLANTYRE, CAIRO, CONAKRY, DAKAR, DAR ES ALAAM, FREETOWN, GABORONE, JOHANNESBURG, KINSHASA, LAGOS, LOME, LONDON, LUSAKA, MASERU, MBABANE, MONROVIA, NAIROBI, NIZMAY, OUAGOUDOUG, PARIS, TUNIS, YAOUNDE, USEC BRUSSELS, USUN, & ASMARA FROM ADDIS ABABA 14 AUG 73 REPEATED TO YOU

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SUBJ: OAU AND AALC

REF: A) NAIROBI 5248 (NOTAL); B) ADDIS 9325 (NOTAL);

C) USUN 2742 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: POSSIBILITY OF AFL-CIO DIALOGUE WITH SOUTH AFRICAN TRADE UNION COUNCIL (TUCSA) CONTINUES CAUSE CONCERN IN OAU AND OATUU. CONVERSATIONS DURING PAST WEEK YIELDED REPEATED ADVICE NOT TO PROCEED FURTHER AS DIALOGUE WOULD BE INCOMPATIBLE WITH POLICY OF ISOLATION OF SOUTH AFRICA WHICH WELL ESTABLISHED IN AFRICA, AND WOULD EVOKE STRONG CRITICISM OF AALC AND AMERICANS GENERALLY.

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2. CONVERSATIONS DURING PAST WEEK BY AALC REGIONAL DIRECTOR

FUNK AND REGIONAL LABOR ATTACHE CALDWELL WITH OAU, ILO AND OATUU OFFICIALS INDICATE CONTINUED CONCERN OVER AFL-CIO INTENTIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA. LIKELIHOOD OF HOSTILE CRITICISM OF AALC HAS BEEN DIMINISHED BY AFL-CIO REFUSAL TO SEND OFFICIAL DELEGATES TO TUCSA CONGRESS AND PURSUIT ALTERNATIVE OF SENDING O'FARRELL AS NON-PARTICIPATING OBSERVER. ATTENTIVE EARS NEVEGTHELESS WAITING TO HEAR WHAT O'FARRELL MAY SAY AFTER VISIT TO TUCSA. ANY IMPRESSION OF ESTABLISHING CONTINUING DIALOGUE BETWEEN AFL-CIO AND TUCSA MAY TRIGGER ABUSIVE CRITICISM IN VIEW OF OAU AND OATUU FIRM COMMITMENT TO POLICY OF ISOLATION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

3. DURING MEETING WITH FUNK, KAMANDA, OAU ASST SEC GEN, STATED THAT OFFICIALLY OAU NOT PLANNING ATTACK ON AALC "AT THIS TIME BASED ON WHAT HAS TRANSPIRED TO DATE." ALTHOUGH AVOIDING EXPRESSION OF ANY OVERT THREAT, HE IMPLIED THAT IF AFL-CIO APPEARED TO PROCEED ANY FURTHER TOWARD SOUTH AFRICAN DIALOGUE, OAU WOULD BE FORCED TO CONDEMNATION. KAMANDA WENT ON TO SAY "REAL PRESENT CONCERN" R OAU WAS OVER GENERAL FEELING IN OAU THAT AALC SOUGHT TO SUBVERT, DESTROY OR CONTROL OATUU. NOTING HE HAD NO REAL EVIDENCE, KAMANDA SUGGESTED THIS FEELING STEMMED FROM SUPPOSED AMERICAN ATTITUDE FLOATING AT GENEVA ILO CONFERENCE THAT OATUU WOULD NOT WORK.

4. FUNK MADE CLEAR THAT THESE SUPPOSITIONS WERE TOTALLY WITHOUT FOUNDATION IN FACT. AALC HAD SCRUPULOUSLY MAINTAINED NEUTRALITY DURING FORMATION OF OATUU, HE SAID, AND HOPED OATUU WOULD FUCTION AS TRULY INDEPENDENT AFRICAN TRADE UNION ORGANIZATION. FURTHERMORE, HE EXPRESSED PERSONAL VIEW THAT, WHEN OATUU FIRMLY ESTABLISYGD AND OPERATINGWB AALC WOULD LISTEN ATTENTIVELY TO ANY OATUU REQUEST FOR PROGRAM ASSISTANCE IN ANY AREA THAT WOULD NOT COMPROMOSE INDEPENDENT AFRICAN CHARACTER OF OATUU.

5. NDISI, ILO REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA, EXPRESSED OPINION SEPARATELY TO CALDWELLH,D FUNK THAT "AMERICANS MUST EXERCISE EXTREME CAUTION ABOUT GIVING APPEARANCE OF DIALOGUE WITH SOUTH AFRICA." GOOD WORKS ACHIEVED BY AALC WOULD BE QUICKLY FORGOTTEN IF WE WENT COUNTER TO WELL PUBLICIZED POSITION OF OAU, ILO AND MANY AFRICAN STATES. HE NOTED THAT TOTAL ISOLATION WAS NOT HELPING BLACK WORKERS IN SOUTH AFRICA, BUT QUESTION OF HOW, WHEN AND WHO SHOULD TAKE CONSTRUCTIVE ACTION WAS EXTREMELY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SENSITIVE SUBJECT. PRESENT ATMOSPHERE CERTAINLY MADE SUCH ACTION VIRTUALLY INQOSSIBLE AT THIS TIME, HE CONCLUDED. HE SPECULATED THAT AT SOME FUTURE DATE ILO MIGHT ENDEAVOR TO ASSIGN EXPERIENCED OFFICERS IN BLS COUNTRIES.

6. DENIS AKUMU, OATUU GENSEC, IN CONVERSATION WITH CALDWELL, SPOKE EXCITEDLY TO ISSUE OF POSSIBLE DIALOGUE. "YOU AMERICANS WILL UNDO YOUR CONSTRUCTIVE WORK, COMPROMISE YOUR WELCOME BY MANY

AFRICAN STATES AND EMBARRASS YOUR FRIENDS IN OATUU IF YOU PROCEED ANY FURTHER." HE IMPLIED HE WOULD PERSONALLY BE EMBARRASSED SINCE HE HAD ENCOURAGED SEVERAL RELUCTANT NATIONAL LABOR CENTERS TO BE MORE HOSPITABLE TO AALC. AKUMU ALSO SAID KENYA MOF HAD ALREADY OR WOULD SOON APPROACH AMEMBASSY NAIROBI TO EXPRESS OFFICIAL CONCERN. WYMAN UNQTE ROGERS

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